

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Attached hereto are 18 replacement sheets of drawings, replacing all drawings currently on file. Changes to the drawings are described below.

REMARKS

After entry of this amendment, claims 3, 5, 11-14, and 20-23 remain pending. In the present Office Action, claims 1-2, 4, 6-10, and 16-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barrera III, U.S. Patent No. 6,247,057 ("Barrera") in view of Jindal et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,324,580 ("Jindal"). Claims 3, 5, 11-14, and 20-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barrera in view of Jindal and Ishikawa, U.S. Patent No. 6,038,602 ("Ishikawa"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Claims 15 and 24 were objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Merely to expedite issuance of the allowable subject matter, Applicants have amended claim 3 to include the features of claim 15 and have amended claim 5 to include the features of claim 24. Accordingly, claims 3 and 5 are in condition for allowance. Claims 11-14, being dependent from claim 3, and claims 16-19, being dependent from claim 5, are similarly in condition for allowance.

Applicants note that Ishikawa is not listed on the PTO-892 forms or PTO-1449 forms in the present application. Additionally, Jindal as listed on the PTO-892 forms has Patent No. 6,327,622 rather than 6,324,580 as used in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a PTO-892 form listing Ishikawa and Jindal with Patent No. 6,324,580 with the next action.

Drawing Amendments

The following changes were made to the drawings: Extraneous lines that were included around the periphery on the informal drawings were deleted in Figs. 1, 3-6, and 11-15. In Fig. 8, the missing reference numeral 390 was added to conform to the specification (see, e.g., page 12, lines 25-26). In Fig. 9, the reference numeral 41 was changed to 412 to conform to the specification (see, e.g., page 13, line 14). In Figs. 14-15, the black ovals at the top and the bottom of the flowchart have been replaced by unfilled ovals. Additionally, in Fig. 14, the text in block 570 was changed to conform to the specification (e.g. see Fig. 10).

In Fig. 5, Applicants noticed that two reference numerals were repeated in the informal drawings and corresponding description (namely, reference numerals 264 and 266). Fig. 5 has been renumbered to eliminate the duplicate reference numerals. Applicants have amended the specification accordingly (see amendments to the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 7 presented above).

Specification Amendments

Applicants have amended the specification to be consistent with the reference numerals in Fig. 5, as mentioned above. Additionally, Applicants have amended the specification to correct certain typographical errors, as illustrated in the specification amendment section above. Finally, Applicants have amended the cross reference to the related applications to correct a serial number. Applicants believe that these amendments do not constitute new matter.

Information Disclosure Statements (IDSs)

Applicants submitted electronic IDSs on April 28, 2004 and August 6, 2004 in the captioned application. However, Applicants have not, as yet, received the PTO-1449 forms from those IDSs, initialed and signed by the Examiner to evidence consideration of the references cited in those IDSs. Applicants attach a copy of each of the electronic IDSs hereto, along with a copy of the Acknowledgement Receipts evidencing receipt by the USPTO of the electronic IDSs. Applicants respectfully request consideration of the references and a return of the PTO-1449 forms, initialed and signed to evidence such consideration.

CONCLUSION

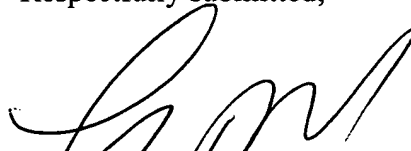
Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5760-22700/LJM.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard
- ☐ Petition for Extension of Time
- ☐ Request for Approval of Drawing Changes
- ☒ Notice of Change of Address
- ☐ Fee Authorization Form authorizing a deposit account debit in the amount of \$
for fees ().
- ☒ Other: Copies of previously-submitted electronic IDSs.

Respectfully submitted,



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AGENT FOR APPLICANT(S)

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